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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/732,023	12/08/2000	Paula S. Newman	001508-3230	1621

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THANH T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2144

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/732,023

Applicant(s)

NEWMAN, PAULA S.

Examiner

Tammy T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.



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## Detailed Office Action

1. This action is in response to the application 09/732,023 filed. **December 8, 2000**
2. Claims **1-22** have been examined.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sunil Paul.

(USPN 5,999,932 – Date of Patent: December 7, 1999, herein referred to as “Paul”).

5. As to claim 1, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, including a method for displaying an e-mail collection comprising: receiving a sequence of e-mail messages (col.3, lines 60-65); categorizing each e-mail message into at least one of a plurality of categories (col.3, lines 60-65, and col.4, lines 2-40); and displaying each of the categorized messages in accordance with a display specification, wherein the display specification specifies how each of the plurality of categories are displayed (col.4, lines 5-40, col.8, line 20 to col.9, line 11).

6. As to claim 2, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, further comprising: receiving at least one of a plurality of definitions for display specifications from a user (col.9, lines 7-17); and receiving a user selection of one of the plurality of display specifications, wherein the displaying of the e-mail messages is in accordance with the user selected display specification (col.4, lines 5-40, col.8, line 20 to col.9, line 11).

7. As to claim 3, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the display specification provides for the display of the e-mail messages in one of the plurality of categories by encapsulating the messages into threads and for providing at least one item on the top level display for each of the corresponding threads (col.9, lines 7-15).

8. As to claim 4, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the display specification provides for the display of the e-mail messages in one of the plurality of categories by encapsulating the messages in the corresponding category and for providing at least one item on the top level display for the corresponding category (col.8, line 20 to col.9, line 5).

9. As to claim 5, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the display

specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, wherein one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories is nested within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories and wherein the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories (col.4, lines 34-40).

10. As to claim 6, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, further comprising: providing an editor window display which lists the plurality of categories and a plurality of message display alternatives for each of the plurality of categories (col.5, lines 32-38); and receiving a user selection of one of the plurality of message display alternatives for one of the plurality of categories (col.7, lines 29-41).

11. As to claim 7, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, further comprising: providing a tool button that is adapted to receive a user command to perform an operation on messages associated with an identified item (Fig.1A, e-mail filter 104, associated with message and identified item, and col.5, lines 18-25); and performing the operation on the messages associated with the identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button (col.5, lines 18-25)

12. As to claim 8, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, including a computer controlled display system for displaying an e-mail collection, the system comprising: a display for presenting the e-mail collection on a viewing area of the display (col.9, lines 7-15); and a processor that is adapted to receive a sequence of e-mail messages in the e-mail collection (Fig. 3A, inclusion list processor 302); to categorize each e-mail message into at least one of a plurality of categories (col.3, lines 60-65, and col.7, lines 29-41); and to control the display to display each of the categorized messages in accordance with a display specification, wherein the

display specification specifies how each of the plurality of categories are displayed (col.9, lines 7-14).

13. As to claim 9, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the processor is further adapted to: receive at least one of a plurality of definitions for display specifications from a user (col.9, lines 7-17); receive a plurality of display specifications from the user; and receive a user selection of one of the plurality of display specifications, wherein the display of e-mail messages is in accordance with the user selected display specification (col.4, lines 5-40, col.8, line 20 to col.9, line 11).

14. As to claim 10, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the display specification provides for the display of the e-mail messages in one of the plurality of categories by encapsulating the messages into threads and for providing one item on the top level display for each of the corresponding threads (col.9, lines 7-15).

15. As to claim 11, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the display specification provides for the display of the e-mail messages in one of the plurality of categories by encapsulating the messages in the corresponding category and for providing at least one item on the top level display for the corresponding category (col.8, line 20 to col.9, line 5).

16. As to claim 12, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the display specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based definitions of categories, wherein at least one of the plurality of user defined rule-based categories is nested within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, and wherein the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories col.4, lines 34-40).

17. As to claim 13, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the processor is further adapted: to provide an editor window display which lists the plurality of categories and a plurality of message display alternatives for each of the plurality of categories (col.5, lines 32-38); to receive a user selection of one of the plurality of message display alternatives for one of the plurality of categories (col.7, lines 29-41).

18. As to claim 14, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the processor is further adapted: to provide a tool button that is adapted to receive a user command to delete messages associated with an identified item (Fig.1A, e-mail filter 104, associated with message and identified item, and col.5, lines 18-25); and to delete the messages associated with the identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button col.5, lines 18-25).

19. As to claim 15, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the processor is further adapted: to receive a user command from a tool button (Fig.1A, e-mail filter 104, associated with message and identified item); and to perform the operation on the messages associated with the identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button (Fig.1A)

20. As to claim 16, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, including an information storage media comprising information that displays an e-mail collection, the information comprising: information that receives a sequence of e-mail messages in the e-mail collection (col.3, lines 60-65); information that categorizes each e-mail message into at least one of a plurality of categories (col.3, lines 60-65, and col.4, lines 2-40); and information that displays each of the categorized messages in accordance with a display specification, wherein the display specification specifies how each of the plurality of categories are displayed (col.4, lines 5-40, col.8, line 20 to col.9, line 11).

21. As to claim 17, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, further comprising: information that receives at least one of a plurality of definitions for display specifications from a user (col.9, lines 7-17); and information that receives a user selection of one of the plurality of display specifications, wherein the displaying of the e-mail messages is in accordance with the user selected display specification (col.4, lines 5-40, col.8, line 20 to col.9, line 11).

22. As to claim 18, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the display specification provides for the display of the e-mail messages in one of the plurality of categories by encapsulating the messages into threads and for providing one item on the top level display for each of the corresponding threads (col.9, lines 7-15).

23. As to claim 19, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the display specification provides for the display of the e-mail messages in one of the plurality of categories by encapsulating the messages in the corresponding category and for providing one item on the top level display for the corresponding category (col.8, line 20 to col.9, line 5).

24. As to claim 20, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, wherein the display specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, wherein at least one of the plurality of user-defined rule based categories is nested within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, and wherein the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories (col.4, lines 34-40).

25. As to claim 21, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, further comprising: information that provides an editor window display which lists the plurality of categories and a plurality of message display alternatives for each of the plurality of categories (col.5, lines 32-



38); and information that receives a user selection of one of the plurality of message display alternatives for one of the plurality of categories (col.7, lines 29-41).

26. As to claim 22, Paul teaches the invention as claimed, further comprising information that: receives a user command (Fig.1A, e-mail filter 104, associated with message and identified item); and performs the operation on the messages associated with the identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button. (Fig.1A).

### ***Conclusion***


27. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

28. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tammy T. Nguyen** who may be reached via telephone at **(703) 305-7982**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time.

If you need to send the Examiner, a facsimile transmission regarding this instant application, please send it to **(703) 872-9306**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **David Wiley**, may be reached at **(703) 308-5221**.

*TTN*

March 18, 2004

  
**DAVID WILEY**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
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